

Application No.: 09/655481

Docket No.: 47171-00125USC2

Remarks

In the Office Action dated January 12, 2005, Claims 1 and 72-99 are pending. Claims 1 and 72-99 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) for not pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

The objections will be addressed in their order.

Claims 1, 72, 81, and 83 were objected as lacking an antecedent for the term "the denomination." Claims 1, 72, and 81 have been amended to recite "each bill having a denomination associated therewith, the denomination of a bill being indicative of a value of the bill." Claim 83 has been amended to recite "each bill having a denomination associated therewith." Accordingly, these objections are believed to be overcome.

Claim 73 was objected to as lacking an antecedent for the term "the device" in lines 10-11 and the term "the control panel" in line 12. These objections are respectfully traversed. The antecedent for the term "the device" can be found in line 1 of claim 73 and the antecedent for the term "the control panel" can be found in line 10 of claim 73.

Claim 76 was objected to as lacking an antecedent for the term "the one or more counters" in "(c)". This objection is respectfully traversed. The antecedent for the term "the one or more counters" can be found in "(b)" line 13 of claim 76.

Claim 80 was objected to as lacking an antecedent for the term "the touch" in line 4. Claim 80 has been amended to recite "a touch." Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

Claims 83-85, 90, 92, 96 and 98 were objected as lacking an antecedent for the term "the acts." These objections are respectfully traversed. It appears that the Office Action is making a hypertechnical objection. The use of the word "the" in this context is commonly accepted. Methods

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claims commonly use the phrase "comprising the steps of" in their preambles without providing an antecedent for the word "steps." In fact, a search of issued U.S. patents indicates over 500,000 patents have this phrase in their claims. See attached Exhibit A. As explained in the response to the prior Office Action, the term "acts" is used to make it abundantly clear to anyone reading the patent that the claims using this expression do not invoke 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶6. Moreover, deletion of the word "the" before the word "acts" will only serve to reduce the readability of the claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Claim 84 was objected to as lacking an antecedent for the term "the device" and the term "the control" in line 4. It is believed the Office Action meant to refer to line 5. The objection to the term "the device" is respectfully traversed. The antecedent for the term "the device" can be found in line 4 of claim 84. With respect to the term "the control," claim 84 has been amended to delete the word "the" preceding "control." Accordingly, these objections are believed to be overcome.

Claim 78 was objected to due to the presence of the word "it" in "(c)". Claim 78 has been amended to recite "the bill" in place of "it." Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

1/26/05 Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the Sixth Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) which was mailed to the Patent Office on January 26, 2005 and respectfully requests the Examiner to review that IDS and send the Applicants an initialed copy of the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

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Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, and action towards that effect is respectfully requested. It is believed that no fee is presently due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47171-00125USC2.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Dated: April 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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